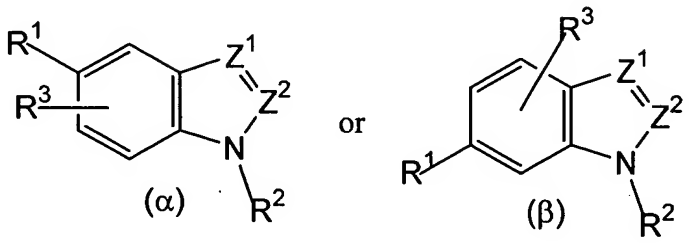
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A compound of the formula:



and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein each of Z^1 and Z^2 is independently CR^4 or N;

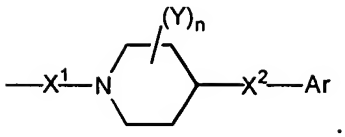
where each R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl (1-6C) and aryl,

each of said alkyl and aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N,

each of said alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C),

and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R^1 is



;

wherein

X^1 is CO, SO or CHOH;

Y is optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, or optionally substituted arylalkyl or two Y taken together may form an alkylene (2-3C) bridge;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X^2 is CH, CH_2, CO, CHOH, SO or SO_2; and

Ar consists of one or two phenyl moieties directly coupled to X^2, said one or two phenyl moieties being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (2-6C), alkynyl (2-6C), CN, CF_3, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, NR_2, OR, SR, OOCR, NROCR; and phenyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more of the foregoing substituents, wherein R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl (1-6C) and aryl,

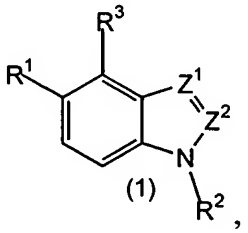
each of said alkyl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N,

~~and~~ each of said ~~aryl or~~ alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C),

and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, NO_2, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (2-6C), alkynyl (2-6C), CN, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, and NROCR where R is H or alkyl (1-6C).

40. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 which is of the formula



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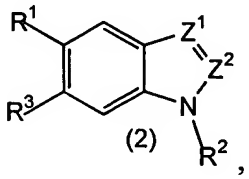

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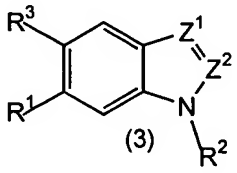
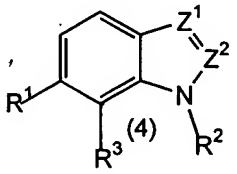


or



41. (currently amended) The compound of claim 39 wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or aryl,

each of said alkyl or aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N,

~~and~~ each of said alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C),

and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

42. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein X^1 is CO.

43. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein X^2 is CH_2.

44. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein X^1 is CO and X^2 is CH_2.

45. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are CR^4.

46. (previously presented) The compound of claim 44 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are CR^4.

47. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is N and Z^2 is CH.

48. (previously presented) The compound of claim 44 wherein Z^1 is N and Z^2 is CH.

49. (previously presented) The compound of claim 40 which is of the formula (2).

50. (previously presented) The compound of claim 44 which is of the formula (2).

51. (previously presented) The compound of claim 40 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

52. (previously presented) The compound of claim 44 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

53. (currently amended) The compound of claim 44 wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or is aryl,

each of said alkyl or aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N,

~~and~~ each said alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR (where R is H or

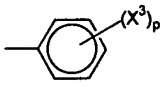
1-6C alkyl), CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N,

and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

54-55. (canceled)

56. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein n is 0.

57. (previously presented) The compound of claim 52 wherein n is 0.

58. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein Ar is 

wherein each X^3 is independently alkyl (1-6C), halo, OR, or NR_2 and p is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

59. (currently amended) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^2 is CH and wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or is aryl,

each of said alkyl or aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N,

~~and~~ each said alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR (where R is H or 1-6C alkyl), CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N,

and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered

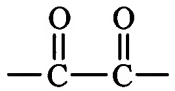
aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

60. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is CR^4 and R^4 is other than H.

61. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is CR^4 wherein R^4 is other than H and Z^2 is CH.

62. (currently amended) The compound of claim 61 wherein R^4 is alkyl, either containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, or said alkyl being substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C); or both.

63. (previously presented) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 includes the structure



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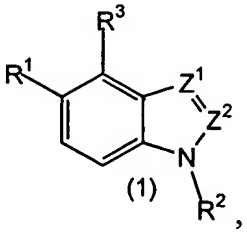
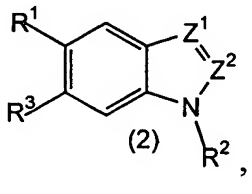
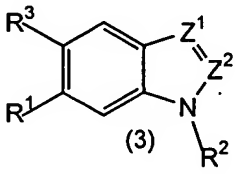
64. (previously presented) The compound of claim 63 which is of the formula



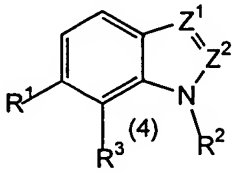
(1),



(2),



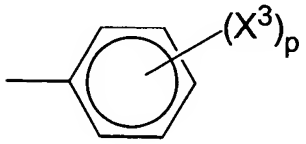
(3) or



(4)

65. (previously presented) The compound of claim 64 which is of the formula (2).

66. (previously presented) The compound of claim 62 wherein Ar is



wherein each X^3 is independently alkyl (1-6C), halo, OR; or NR_2 and p is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

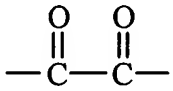
67. (previously presented) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

68. (previously presented) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 includes the structure NR_2.

69. (previously presented) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 includes the structure of a saturated 5 or 6 membered ring containing 1-2 heteroatoms.

70. (previously presented) The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 includes the structure of an unsaturated 5 or 6 membered ring containing 1-2 heteroatoms.

71. (previously presented) The compound of claim 66 wherein R^4 includes the structure:



72. (previously presented) The compound of claim 39 which is selected from the group consisting of:

4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-chloro-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

6-chloro-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-chloro-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-chloro-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole carboxamide;

4-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

4-methoxy-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-(4fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-cyclohexylmethylamino-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-N-methylpiperazinyl-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-benzylamino-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-[3-{(4-methoxybenzyl)-amino}-2-hydroxypropyl-]-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-{3-n-propylamino-2-hydroxypropyl}-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(4-pyridoyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(4-pyridylmethyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-methylacetyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-acetyl-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(n-propylamide)acetyl 4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl-indole-5-carboxamide-1-acetic acid-n-butylamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl-indole-5-carboxamide-1-acetic acid 4-methoxybenzyl amide;

3-(2-methoxyethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(2-methylaminoethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(2-aminoethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(4-benzylpiperidinylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(4-benzylpiperidinylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-6-carboxamide;

3-(4-fluorobenzylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-[2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethylcarboxamidyl]-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-trifluoroacetyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-3-(2-dimethylaminoethylamino)carboxamidyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-trifluoroacetyl-4-benzylpiperidinylindole-5-carboxamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide-3-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-dimethylamino)ethylaminocarboxamidyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

or is a compound as set forth in Table 5.

73. (previously presented) The compound of claim 72 which is

4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

3-[2-dimethylaminoethylaminocarbonyl]-4-benzylpiperidinyl-6-methoxy indole-5-carboxamide; or

4-benzylpiperidinyl-6-methoxy benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

74. (previously presented) The compound of claim 73 which is 4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide

75. (currently amended) A method to treat ~~a condition characterized by a pro-inflammation response~~ coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, vasculitis, restenosis, atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, gouty arthritis, other arthritic conditions, multiple sclerosis, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), silicosis, pulmonary sarcosis, sepsis, septic shock, endotoxic shock, toxic shock syndrome, heart and brain failure (stroke) that are characterized by ischemia and reperfusion injury, graft rejections, cardiopulmonary bypass, coronary artery bypass graft, CNS injuries, including open and closed head trauma, conjunctivitis, uveitis, acute renal failure, glomerulonephritis, inflammatory bowel diseases, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, graft vs. host disease, bone resorption diseases, osteoporosis, type II diabetes, pyresis, psoriasis, cachexia, HIV, CMV, Herpes, cerebral malaria, tumor metastases, or acute pain, which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of claim 39 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof effective to treat said condition.

76. (currently amended) The method of claim 75 wherein said condition is rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, psoriasis, acute respiratory distress syndrome, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, uveitis, IBD, acute renal failure, head trauma, or ischemic/reperfusion injury.

77. (previously presented) A method to treat a heart condition associated with cardiac failure, which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of claim 39 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof effective to treat said heart condition.

78. (currently amended) The method of claim 77 wherein said heart condition is congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy, vasculitis, vascular restenosis, valvular disease, or myocarditis.

79. (new) The compound of claim 39 which is selected from the group consisting of:

6-Methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide-3-glyoxylic acid;

6-Methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-5-carboxamido-indole-3-glyoxalic acid-4-methylpiperazinamide;

6-Methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-5-carboxamido-indole-3-glyoxalic acid-1-(2-aminoethylpyrrolidine)-amide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl-5-carboxamido-indole-3-glyoxylicamide; and

6-Chloro-(4'-fluoro-4-benzylpiperidinyl)-5-carboxamido-indole-3-glyoxylic acid 4-methylpiperazinamide.